

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards an MPEG video decoding method. The closest prior art, Ohki (USPN 4,651,206), shows a similar system, in which, an inter-frame coding circuit for encoding a television video signal to reduce the quantity of data to be transmitted. The coding circuit includes a motion detection circuit which produces a motion vector representative of motion contained in the television signal and an inter-frame prediction coder which is responsive to the motion vector and to the input television signal to produce a prediction error signal which indicates frame-to-frame variations in the television signal. Also included is a refresh circuit for spatially correlating the input signal on an intra-frame basis. To reduce or eliminate the possibility that an error in the signal is magnified, the motion vector is set to zero for a predetermined period in relation to an area or a portion of the video signal for which a refresh operation has just been completed. A transmission circuit transmits the motion vector signal, the prediction error signal, and a refresh execution signal which are used for reproducing the original video signal. A counterpart decoding circuit for receiving the transmitted signals and reproducing from them the original video signal is

provided. However, Ohki fails to address: "for determining, by a decoder, whether to perform motion compensation on motion-vector-decoded data or not depending on a value of a decoded motion vector; determining whether to perform an inverse transform on motion-compensated data or not depending on a plurality of values of decoded transform coefficients and generating a decoded image based on results of the determining whether to perform the motion compensation and the determining whether to perform the inverse-transform".

These distinct features have been added to both independent claims and renders them allowable.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday. 8:30 am thru 5:00pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikram Bali can be reached on 571-272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.
- Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Amir Alavi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624
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